

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A magnetic recording head, comprising:
  - a magnetoresistive layer having a first end and a second end;
  - a soft-adjacent magnetic transverse bias layer (SAL) having a first end and a second end;
  - an insulating layer arranged between said magnetoresistive layer and said SAL;
  - a first conductive layer including an extending portion directly contacting a top surface of said magnetoresistive layer and electrically contacting said first end of said magnetoresistive layer and said first end of said SAL;
  - a second conductive layer including an extending portion directly contacting a top surface of said magnetoresistive layer and electrically contacting said second end of said magnetoresistive layer and said second end of said SAL;
  - the magnetoresistive layer supporting a first current path between the first and second conductive layers; and
  - the SAL supporting a second current path between the first and second conductive layers; wherein the second current path is substantially longer than the first current path.
2. (original) The magnetic recording head of claim 1, wherein said first current path passes through an active region in said magnetoresistive layer.
3. (currently amended) The magnetic recording head of claim 2, ~~wherein said first conducting layer includes an extending portion on a top surface of said magnetoresistive layer, and said second conducting layer includes an extending portion on said top surface of said magnetoresistive layer,~~ wherein said active region is formed between said first conducting layer extending portion, said magnetoresistive layer, and said second conducting layer extending portion.
4. (original) The magnetic recording head of claim 1, wherein thickness of said magnetoresistive layer is more than 50 Å and less than 400 Å.
5. (original) The magnetic recording head of claim 1, wherein thickness of said SAL is less than 500 Å, and the moment ratio of said SAL to said magnetoresistive layer ranges from 0.6 to 1.0.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (original) The magnetic recording head of claim 1, wherein said insulating layer ranges from 50 Å to 200 Å in thickness.

9. (original) The magnetic recording head of claim 8, wherein said insulating layer is formed of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

10. (canceled)